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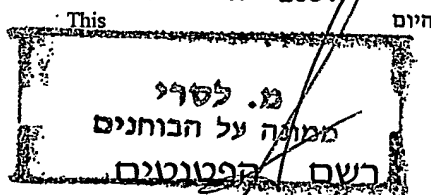
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בקשה לפטנט
PATENT APPLICATION

אני, (שם המבקש, מענו - ולגבי גוף מאוחד - מקום ההגדרות)
I (Name and address of applicant, and, in case of body corporate, place of incorporation)

Zohar Elinski
9/1 Zofit st.
Arad, 89076

זוהר אלינסקי
צופית 9/1
ערד, 89076

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(בעברית)
(Hebrew)

Revolving Apparatus for Mushroom Cultivation Beds

(באנגלית)
(English)

hereby apply for a patent to be granted to me in respect thereof.

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*בקשה חלוקה- Application for Division		*בקשה פטנט מוסף- Application for Patent of Addition		*דרישה דין קדימה Priority Claim		
מבקש פטנט from application	לבקשה/לפטנט to Patent/Appl.	מספר/סימן Number/Mark	תאריך Date	מדינת האיגוד Convention Country		
No. _____ dated _____ מיום	No. _____ dated _____ מיום					
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חתימת המבקש Signature of Applicant		שנת 2003 of the year				
יורם זר, עו"ד		בחדש אוקטובר Of October				
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סימוכין:

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מערכת מסתובבת לגידול
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**Revolving Apparatus for
Mushroom Cultivation Beds**

Revolving Apparatus for Agriculture Products Cultivation Beds

BACKGROUND

The present invention relates to the field of the cultivation of mushrooms or other agricultural products. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and apparatus for the cultivation of such products throughout their development. The invention seeks to provide a convenient solution for mushroom cultivation while providing easy access for cultivation and cropping.

Mushrooms or other agricultural products must be cultivated under specific conditions in specially designed housing facilities that maintain exact temperature, carbon dioxide content and humidity of the air in accordance with the stage of growth of the mushrooms. This limits the amount of space available for mushroom cultivation.

Several space saving solutions have been suggested in the past. A widely used system currently in use involves growing the mushrooms in long beds raised on platforms along the walls of a housing facility. The platforms are positioned one above the other in a manner much like hanging shelves. This system is advantageous in that it utilizes much of the available space and provides adequate ventilation. However, these platform beds are difficult to maintain since the user must move to each one separately, sometimes having to use a stool or a ladder to reach beds that are positioned higher on the wall, in order to spread compost, water, crop the mushrooms or perform any other task required during cultivation.

European patent no. EP0324607 describes horizontally and vertically movable equipment for cultivation mushrooms or other products. The equipment consists of a plurality of beds positioned side by side and one above the other, and are pivotally

attached at their ends to two chains, which are carried between upper and lower sprocket wheels. Each bed can be moved to a position in which a user can comfortably tend to the mushrooms while sitting or standing. This apparatus is preferable over the existing system but has some disadvantages, among which are the large size, machine costs and maintenance cost.

The present invention suggests an apparatus that maintains ventilation, allows easy access to the mushrooms, and utilizes a maximal amount of available space. This freestanding apparatus consists of multiple units, each containing a plurality of vertically rotating beds. Each unit is also connected to the central axis of the apparatus and the units rotate in a similar fashion to the beds within them. The design of the apparatus is reminiscent to that of a ferris wheel at an amusement park. Greek patent no. GR1002430 provides a similar but more primitive apparatus designed for breeding silkworms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a rotating cultivation system, for cultivating mushrooms, which holds plurality of trays enabling the movement each tray to specific location. The system is comprised of: a main wheel assembly having a rotating mechanism at the central axis controlled by an electric or hydraulic motor and two frames having supporting spokes projecting from the central axis and a secondary wheel assemblies each having a central axis and two frames of spokes

extending from the secondary axis wherein each spoke holds a tray, wherein the central axes of the secondary wheel assemblies are located at the edges of the main wheel assembly supporting spokes and the rotation of the secondary wheel assemblies is independent of the main wheel assembly rotation.

The rotation of all secondary wheel assemblies is controlled by a central rotating mechanism which include a second electric or hydraulic motor and a gear assembly which enables the rotation of all secondary wheel assemblies simultaneously.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and further features and advantages of the invention will become more clearly understood in the light of the ensuing description of a preferred embodiment thereof, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein-

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a front view of the apparatus assembled in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the apparatus assembled in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 is perspective view of the main wheel assembly according to the present invention;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the main wheel assembly according to the present invention;

Fig. 5a is an enlarged perspective view of the control unit according to the present invention;

Fig. 5b is an enlarged perspective cross section of the control unit according to the present invention;

Fig. 5c is an enlarged top view of the control unit according to the present invention;

Fig. 5d is an enlarged front cross section of the control unit according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the control unit assembled with the shafts according to the present invention.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of a secondary wheel assembly according to the present invention;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged perspective view of a cultivation bed according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The apparatus described in the present invention is designed to hold a plurality of cultivation beds for mushrooms or other agricultural products that each rotate on two different axes. The overall design of the apparatus resembles that of a Ferris wheel and includes a main wheel assembly A, main rotating mechanism 2, a number of secondary wheel assemblies B, the same number of secondary rotating mechanisms 4, a control unit C, a triangular stand D, and a plurality of cultivation beds E. The apparatus may be constructed of various types of materials including metal, plastic, etc.

The main wheel assembly A is shown in figures 1 and 2. Referring to these figures, the main wheel assembly A consists of two frames in the shape of polygons with stabilizing spokes 6. The frames are connected at the main axis 1 in their centers by an elongated spool. The control unit C and main rotating mechanism 2 of the apparatus is positioned at the center of one of the frames next to the main axis 1. A number of gear housings 5 are attached to the vertices of the polygon frame, and the same number of shafts 10 project from the control unit C along the spokes 6 of the frames and connect to the gear housings 5.

The secondary wheel assemblies B, one of which is illustrated in figure 7, hold the cultivation beds E. Each secondary wheel assembly B consists of two frames containing a number of spokes 15. The frames are connected at their central axis, which is also a secondary axis 3 of entire apparatus, by an elongated spool. A number of smaller stabilizing cylindrical 17 bars are also positioned between each two respective spokes 15 on opposite frames. Each cultivation bed is positioned between two such corresponding spokes 15. The spokes 15 have rounded ends 16 with holes to accommodate the pins 18

positioned on each side of the cultivation beds E. Each cultivation bed E is free to rotate on its own axis according to its current position on the apparatus. As a result, the beds will maintain their upright position regardless of unit rotation due to gravity.

The secondary wheel assemblies B are connected at their central axes 3 to the gear housings 5, which connect them to the main wheel assembly A. Within the gear housings 5 are secondary rotating mechanisms 4 that rotate the secondary wheel assemblies B. These mechanisms 4 turn adjacent secondary wheel assemblies B in alternating directions to conserve space while avoiding clashes.

All of the rotating mechanisms 2, 4 within the apparatus are controlled by the control unit C, which is shown in figure 5 and consists of two large gears 11, 12, a circular rack 13, and a number of small gears 14 corresponding to the number of secondary wheel assemblies B used in the apparatus. As mentioned above, the control unit C is positioned in the center of one of the frames of the main wheel assembly A, i.e. at the main axis 1. A ball bearing separates the two large gears 11, 12 in the control unit so that each gear may be turned independently from the other. The main gear 11 turns the main rotating mechanism 2, which rotates the main wheel assembly A on the main axis 1. The secondary gear 12 turns the rack 13, which turns all of the small gears 14 placed on it. These gears 14 are connected to the protruding shafts 10 using cardan joints, as shown in figure 6, while the shafts are connected to the secondary rotating mechanisms 4 as shown in figure 4. Therefore, the rotation of this gear 12 on the control unit C results in the rotation of all of the secondary wheel assemblies 4 -- on the secondary axes 3 -- at once.

Referring again to figures 1 and 2, the triangular stand D is also constructed of two frames corresponding to the frames of the main wheel assembly A. The frame of the stand that attaches to the main wheel frame containing the control unit C described above also holds the motors 8, 9 designated to turn the rotating mechanisms 2, 4. Using two separate motors 8, 9 for the two gears 11, 12 in the control unit allows the rotating mechanisms 2, 4 to operate independently. This stand D serves the purpose of raising the main wheel assembly A from the floor but also connects to the control unit C in order to transfer the energy from the motors 8, 9 to the rotating mechanisms 2, 4. The motor 8, 9 may be an electrical or hydraulic motors.

A further preferred embodiment of the present invention involves the use of the same parts and mechanisms described above, while the shafts 10 protruding from the central unit C are replaced by metal chains that perform the same function as these shafts 10.

An additional preferred embodiment of the present invention is similar to the embodiment described above, but suggests the use of a separate motor for each of the secondary wheel assemblies. This embodiment is more costly but allows for greater accessibility and more options for the rotation of the trays.

Although the apparatus described in the present invention may be used for cultivation of various different products, it is especially beneficial for cultivation and harvesting of mushrooms or other agricultural products. For the cultivation of mushrooms, the cultivation trays may be removed and sterilized either individually, together, or in any particular order that the user wishes.

The trays may then be replaced and soil may be poured into the trays two at a time from either side of the apparatus in order to maintain the balance of the apparatus. Any type of soil may be used; however, the relatively large surface area of the cultivation trays described in the present invention causes the invention to be particularly advantageous with the use of heat-emitting soil such as used for mushroom cultivation.

Although housing facilities for the cultivation of mushrooms or other agricultural products are air conditioned, the temperature and quality of the air may still differ in various areas and/or heights within the room. In the present invention, two or more different rotations of the cultivation beds assure proper and even ventilation of the mushrooms or other product in all stages of cultivation. The apparatus can rotate the mushrooms unsupervised on the main axis, secondary axes, an individual secondary axis, or all axes at once. A timer may be attached to one or more of the motors in order to automatically rotate the mushrooms for predefined periods of time.

In all embodiments, the rotational feature of the present invention also allows for easy access to any specific cultivation bed since the rotation of the bed units vice versa is independent from that of the entire frame. The user may sit or stand in one place on either side and at any height around the apparatus and rotate any cultivation bed to its desired location at the touch of a button. It also allows for simultaneous cultivation or harvesting by more than one person. The ability to increase manpower gives the user/s more options and can result in greater efficiency.

While the above description contains many specificities, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the invention, but rather as exemplifications of the preferred embodiments. Those skilled in the art will envision other possible

variations that are within its scope. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be determined not by the embodiment illustrated, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.


What is claimed is:

1. A rotating cultivation system for holding plurality of trays enabling the movement each tray to specific location, said system comprised of :
 - a. a main wheel assembly having a rotating mechanism at the central axis controlled by a motor and two frames having supporting spokes projecting from the central axis wherein each spoke hold a tray.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising of a secondary wheel assemblies each having a central axis and at least two frames of spokes extending from the secondary axis wherein each spoke holds a tray, wherein the central axes of the secondary wheel assemblies are located at the edges of the main wheel assembly supporting spokes and the rotation of the secondary wheel assemblies is independent of the main wheel assembly rotation.
3. The cultivation system of claim 1 wherein the rotation of all secondary wheel assemblies is controlled by a central rotating mechanism which include a second motor and a gear assembly which enables the rotation of all secondary wheel assemblies simultaneously.
4. The cultivation system of claim 2 wherein the gear assembly is mounted on the same axis of the main wheel assembly utilizing ball bearings for differentiating the movement of the gear assembly from the movement of the main wheel assembly.
5. The cultivation system of claim 2 wherein the central rotating mechanism transfers the rotational movement through gears and shafts wherein a main gear

rotates respective small gears and each small gear transfers the motion to a respective secondary wheel assembly through the shaft rotation.

6. The cultivation system of claim 2 wherein the central rotating mechanism transfers the rotational movement through gears and chains wherein a main gear rotates respective small gears and each small gear transfers the motion to a respective secondary wheel assembly through the chain movement.
7. The cultivation system of claim 1 wherein the rotation of each secondary wheel assemblies is controlled by a single rotating mechanism which include a second motor and a gear.
8. The cultivation system of claim 1 wherein the trays contain cultivation beds for growing mushrooms.
9. The cultivation system of claim 1 wherein the trays contain cultivation beds for growing agricultural products.
10. The cultivation system of claim 1 wherein adjacent secondary wheel assemblies rotate in opposite directions in synchronization בתזמון.(timing)
11. The cultivation system of claim 1 wherein the main and secondary assemblies are elevated by stand consisting of two triangular frames.
12. the cultivation system of claim 7 wherein the motors are located on the triangular stand.

For the applicant


Yoram Zer, Patent attorney

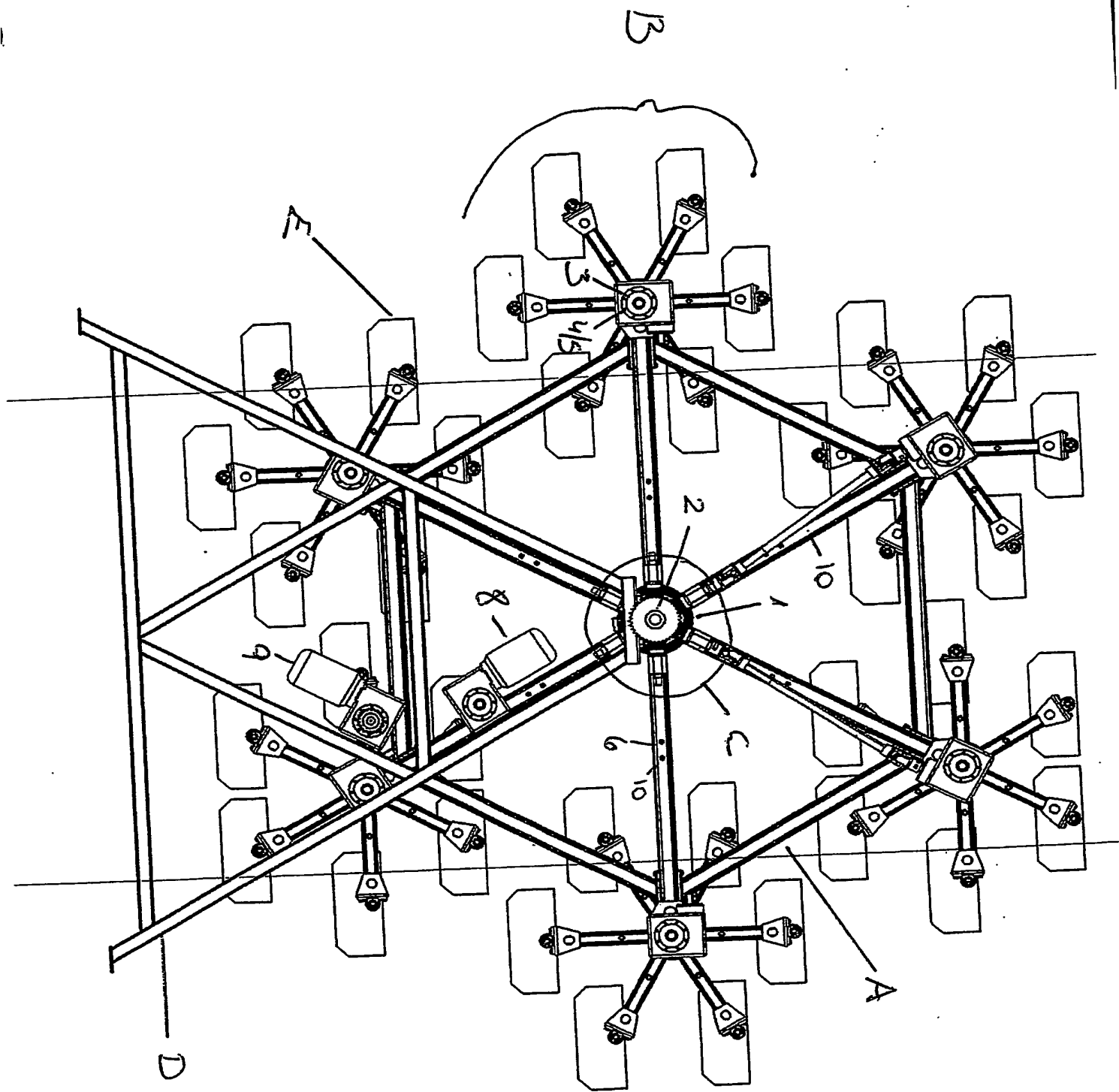
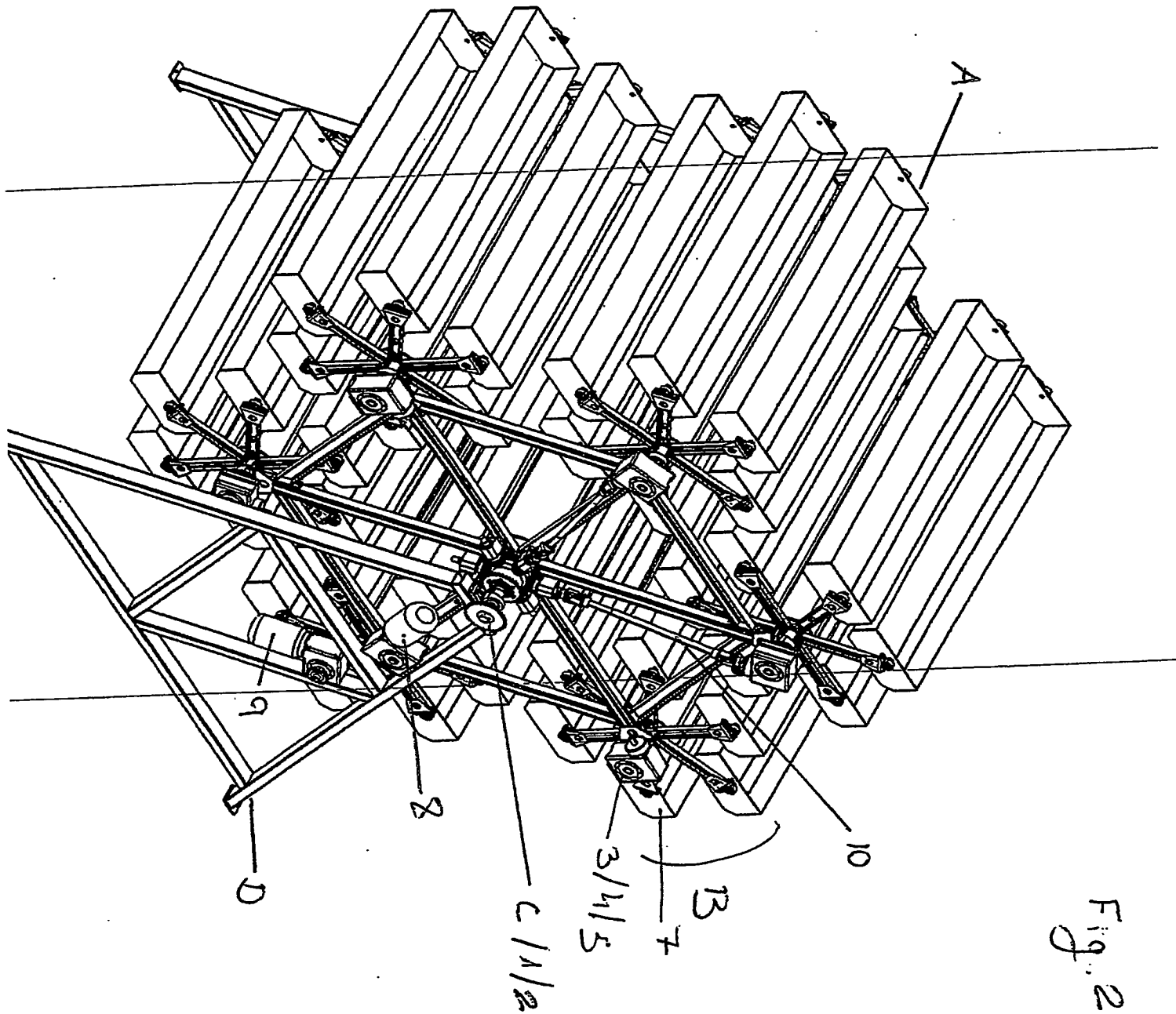


Fig. 1



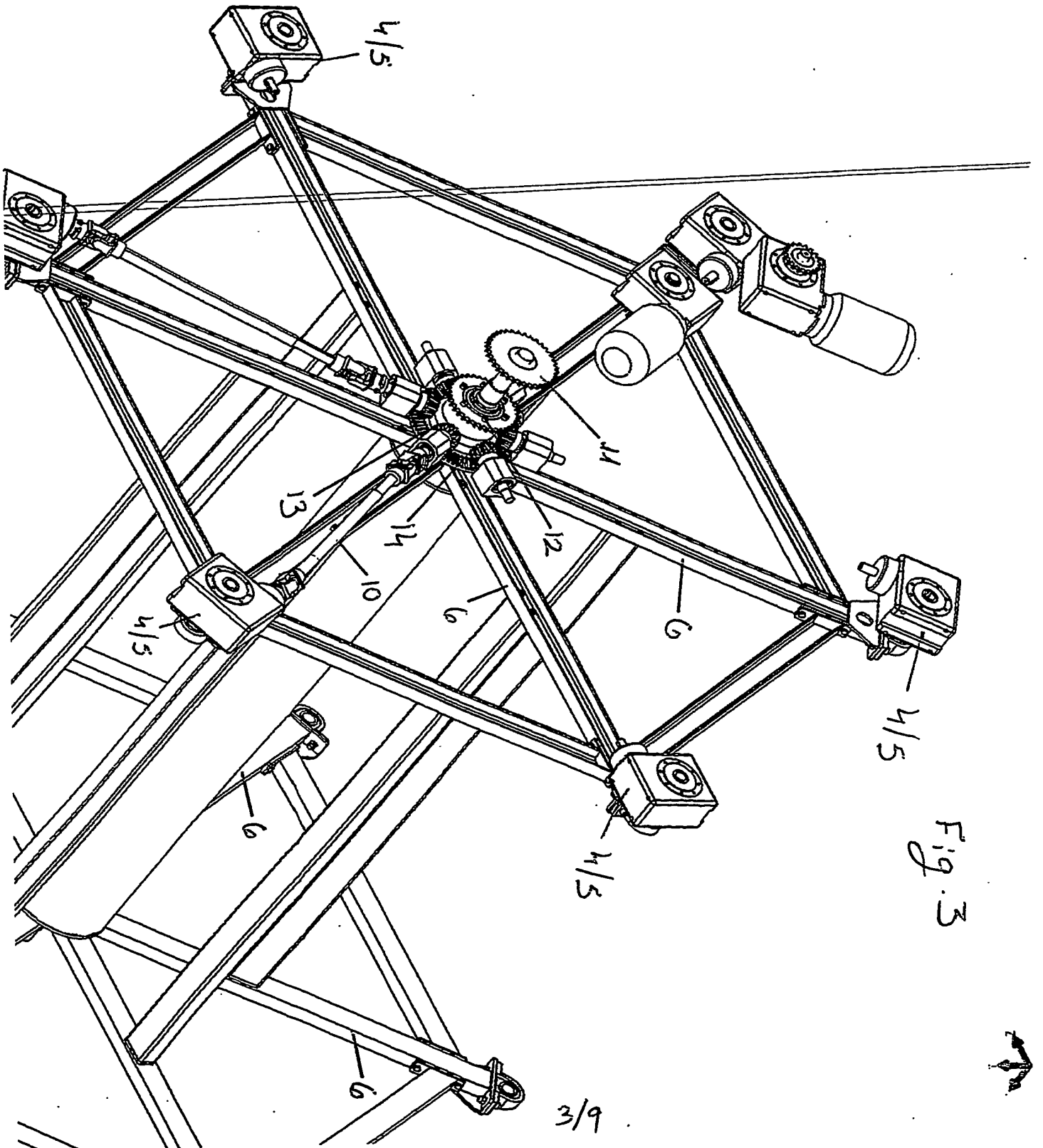


Fig. 3

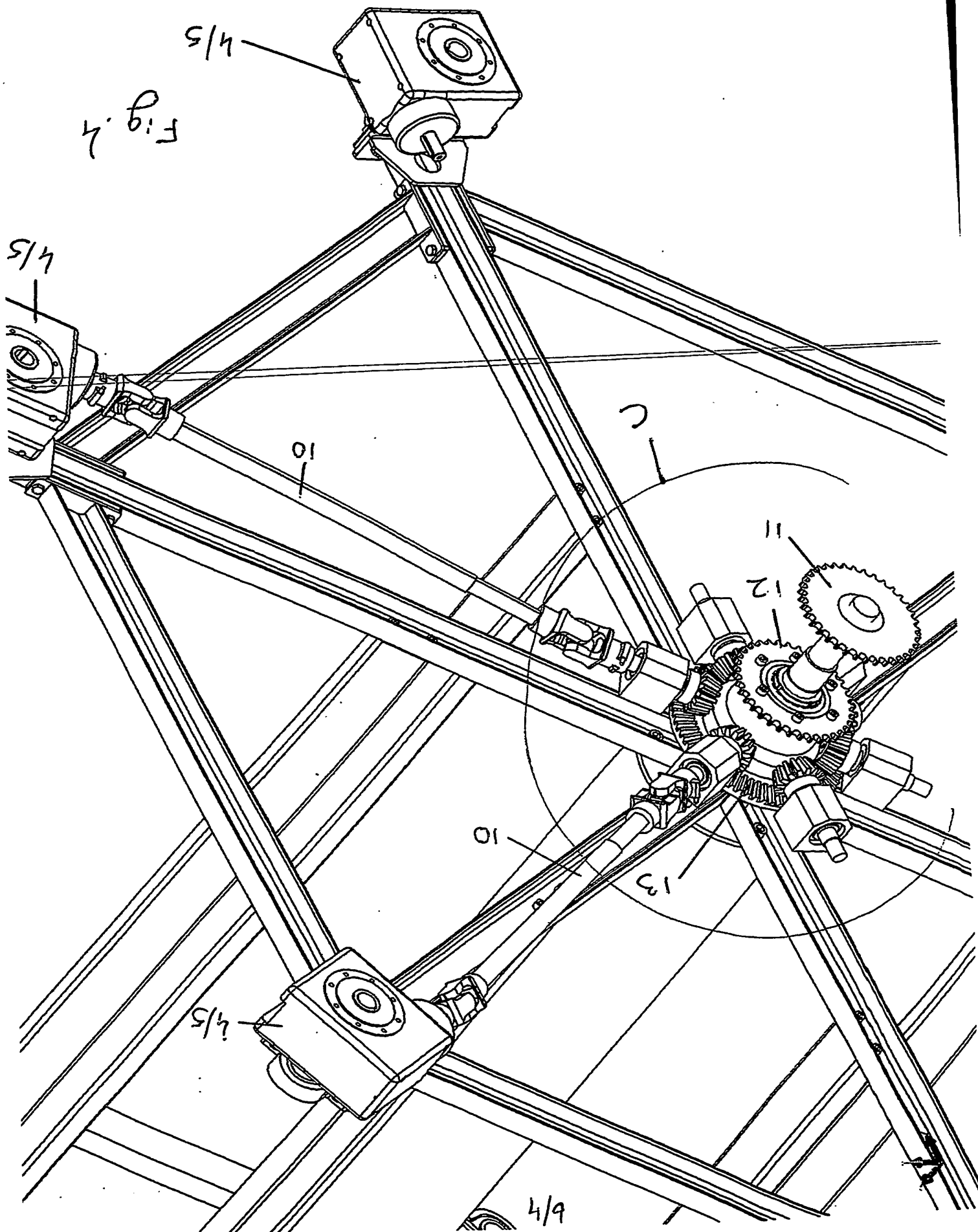


Fig. 4

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4/5

10

10

4/5

4/9

10

11

12

13

5A

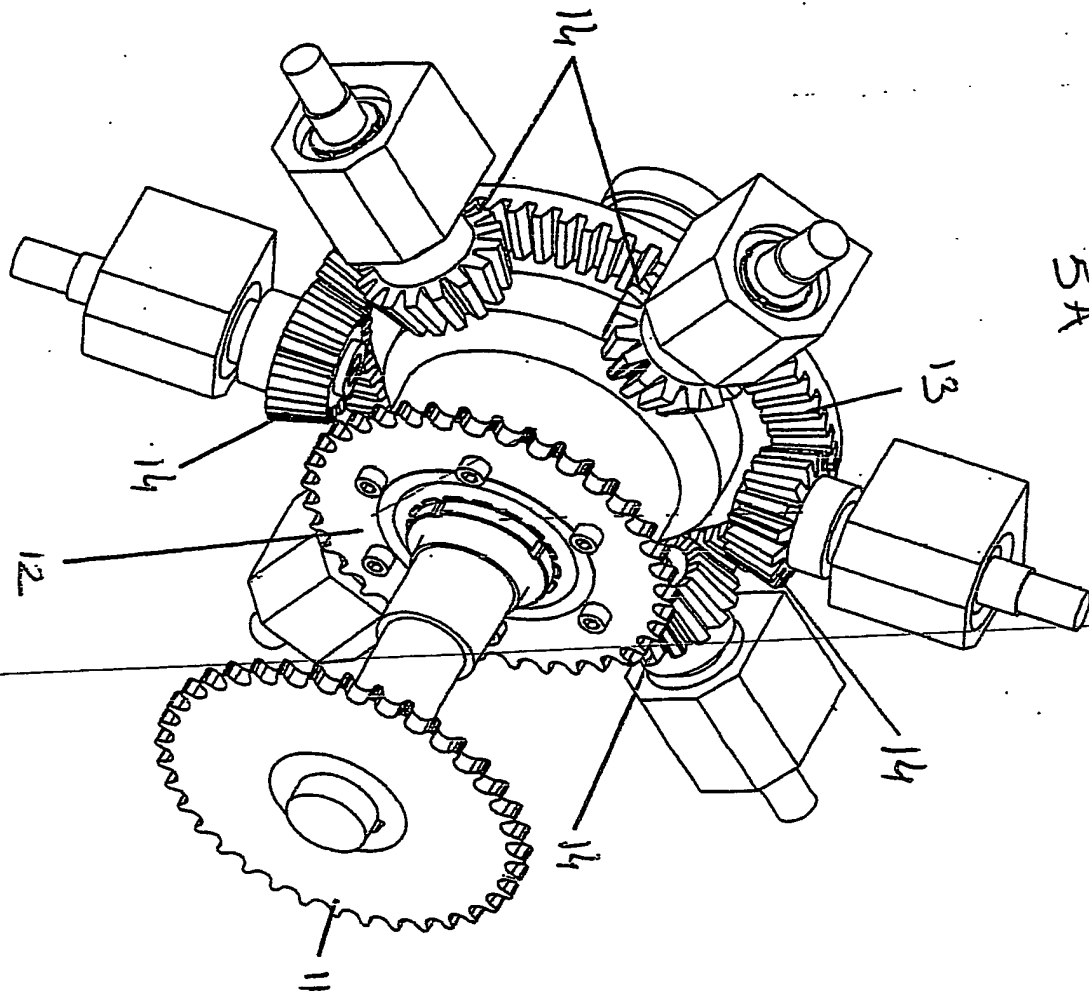
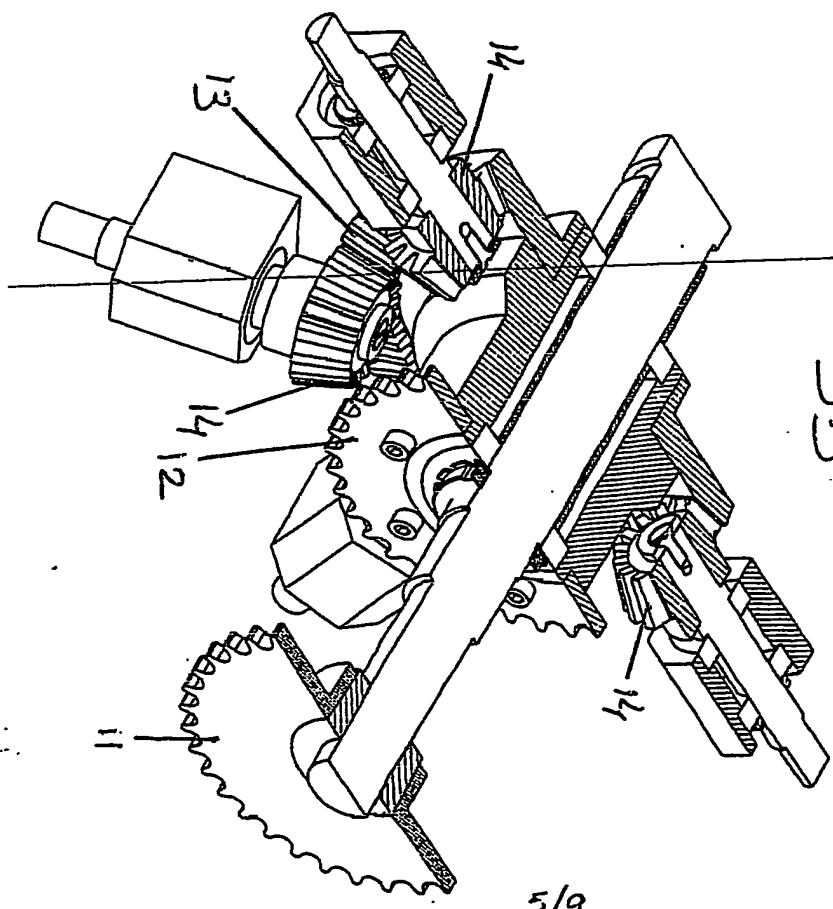


Fig. 3

5B



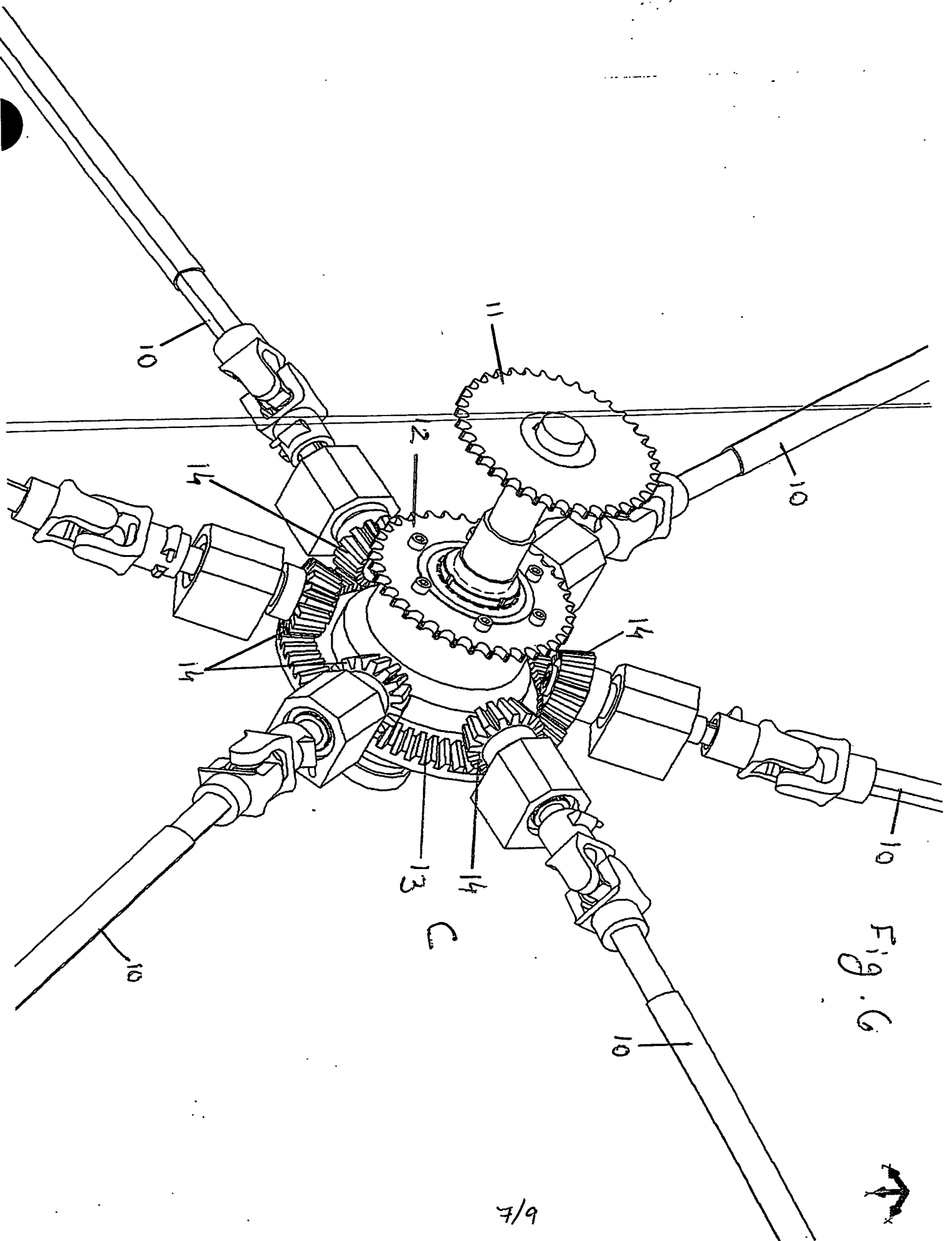
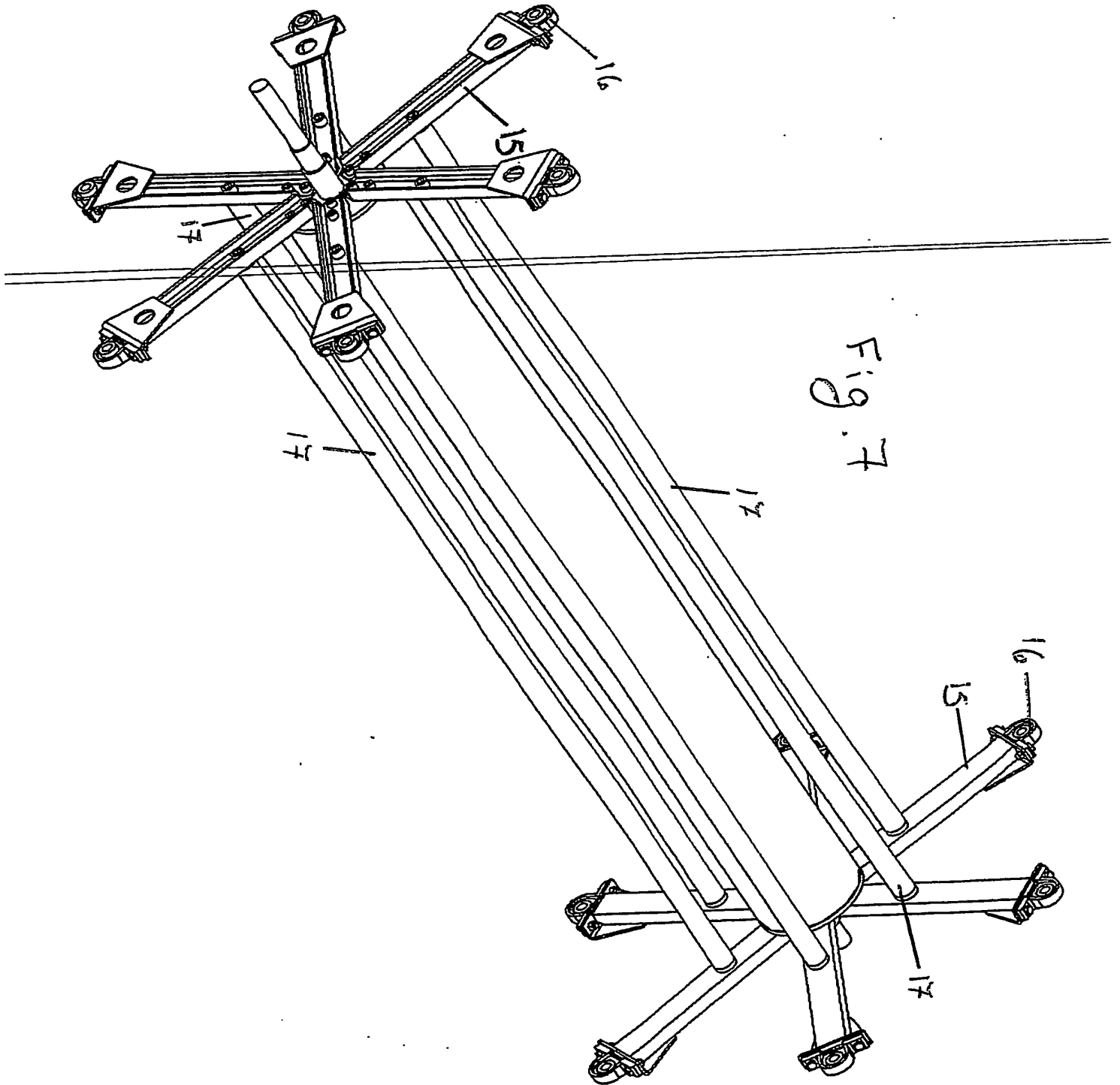


Fig. 6



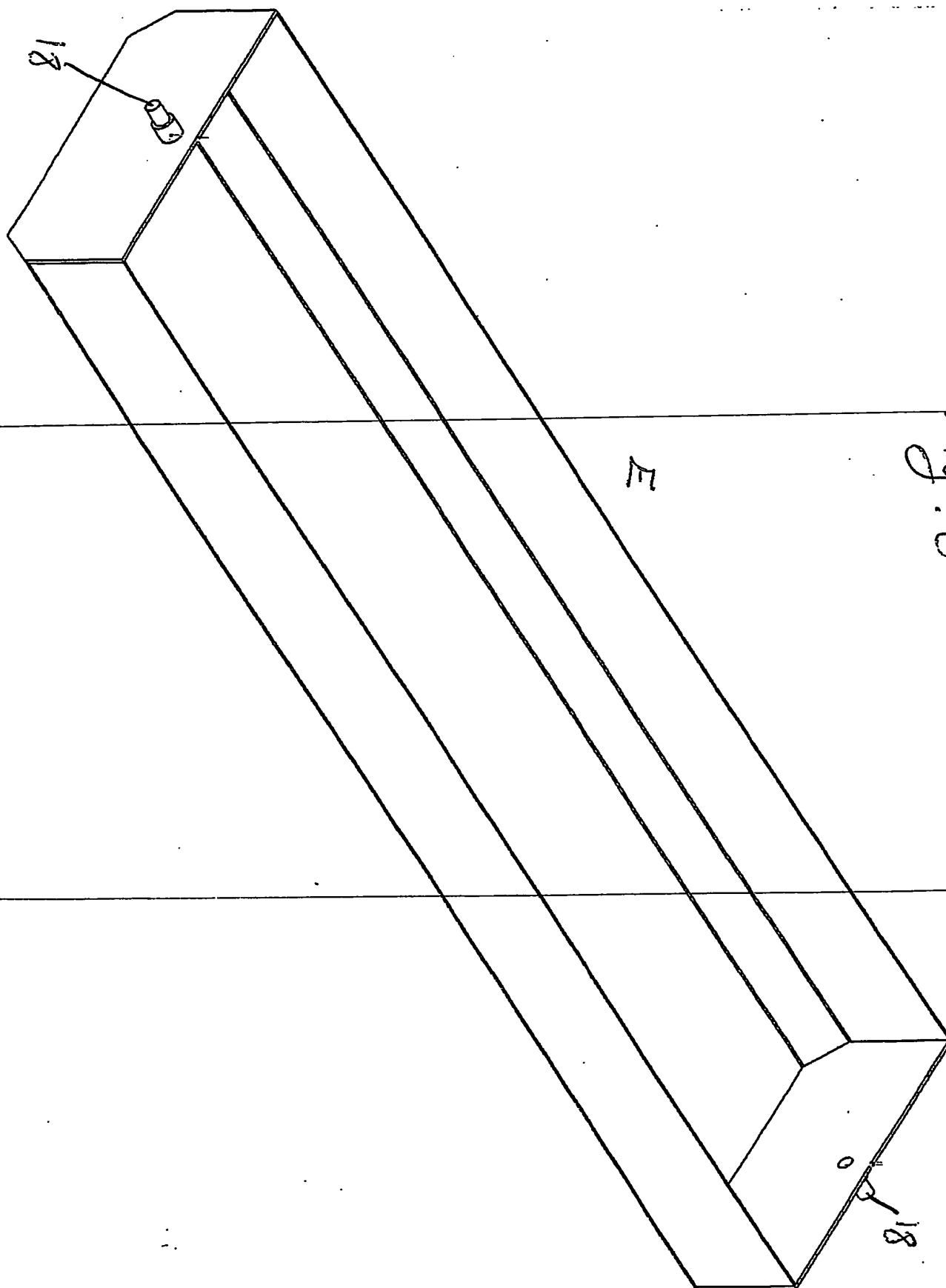


Fig. 8

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